

NORTHEASTERN REGION AIS SUMMARY (2011 Boating Season)

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General

Region Wide Operations

One Biologist I position funded for 12 months by UDWR (\$68,390 project E1A520xxx) to manage the regional AIS program and supervise the Wildlife Technician II positions along with some of the Wildlife Technician I positions.

Two Wildlife Technician II positions--one funded for 7 months by UDWR (\$24,169 project E1A520xxx) and the other funded for 4 months by UDWR (\$16,154 project E1A520xxx). Both were used to rove between regional waters as needed and to supervise a segment of the Wildlife Technician I positions.

Water-By-Water Reports

Flaming Gorge Reservoir

- Flaming Gorge Budget: UDWR Tech II \$11,905 UDWR FG Techs \$18,991 US Forest Service FG Techs \$ 7,383. Total current expense for FG \$15,578 Total funding for Flaming Gorge **\$53,857**
- FTE for Flaming Gorge 1.43
 - 4 technicians were hired to work a total of 16.11 months (Tech II 5 months, 2 tech's 4 months, 1 tech 3.11 months)
 - 2 decontamination units were located at Flaming Gorge Utah side of the reservoir (1 @ Dutch John, 1 @ Lucerne Marina)
- Media Releases specific to Flaming Gorge = ?
 - Total documented boats that were contacted by AIS Tech's = **7479**
- The total number of boats decontaminated at Flaming Gorge during the 2011 boating season was **6**. Of these boats none were harboring a live QM or ZM.
- No other equipment was reported to be decontaminated at Flaming Gorge over the course of the summer
- Flaming Gorge Top 8 "last waters" boated for boaters coming to Flaming Gorge from **559** boater surveys
 - Flaming Gorge (n=281)
 - None Since last season (n=17)
 - Lake Powell (n= 17)
 - Willard Bay (n= 10)
 - Deer Creek (n=6)
 - Steinaker (n=6)
 - Strawberry (n=5)
 - Colorado waters (n=18)

- During the 2011 boating season at Flaming Gorge, no boats were found with live or dead mussels attached to them upon arrival. 6 boat decontaminations were performed. Some of the lakes in which these boats last came from are: Lake Havasu, Lake Minnetonka, Lake Mead, Pueblo Reservoir, Blue Mesa Reservoir and Horsetooth Reservoir.
- Visitors from Colorado waters include: Blue Mesa, Horsetooth, Cherry Creek, Steamboat Lake, Elkhead, Rifle Gap, Harvey's Gap, and Carter Lake.
- Flaming Gorge was sampled for veligers in the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 field seasons. It was sampled by the UDWR in 2008 and in 2009 the Bureau of Reclamation sampled the lake during the months of July, September and October. In 2009 preliminary results from veliger sampling at Flaming Gorge, resulted in positive identification under the BOR's microscope. The sample was transferred to the PCR lab and subjected to tests under the lead of John Wood at Pices Molecular Lab. Reports from his lab were negative. A third test was administered from this sample in October/November: The suspect organism was sent to the electron microscope and found to be an ostracod, a harmless organism found in many of our regional waters.
- In 2010 the Bureau of Reclamation sampled Flaming Gorge for veligers in June, July, August and September. All test were negative for 2010
- In 2011 the Bureau of Reclamation sampled Flaming Gorge for veligers in (Unknown at this time)
- Law Enforcement efforts at Flaming Gorge: Labor Day road block on Hwy 191 near Antelope Flats, on the Utah side of the reservoir intercepting boats. A total of 580 vehicles passed through the road block and 51 boats were interdicted and inspected, none needed to be decontaminated.
- 4th annual Villa Spring Fishing Tournament was held at Flaming Gorge. Teams were checked in the day before the tournament started 200 teams with 3 people per team were contacted, educated and if needed had their boat inspected by AIS techs. No boats required professional decontaminations.
- **Other AIS Discovered Around the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area**
 - Curley-leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) was first found at Flaming Gorge in 2010 at UTM 12 T 0621290, 4535742 near Antelope Flats boat ramp. Further investigation yielded pieces of the plant but no source area.
 - In 2011 Curley-leaf Pondweed was found in the same general areas as in 2010. As water levels in the lake began to rise pondweed sightings diminished. No source area was discovered in 2011. Curley-leaf Pondweed was identified on the Green River below Flaming Gorge Dam at UTM 12 T 0641079, 4530033 on September 18th 2011. A single floating piece was found along with other floating vegetation.
 - Near Flaming Gorge Reservoir is Browne Lake. The west fork of Carter Creek flows from Browne Lake into the main stem of Carter Creek which then flows into Flaming Gorge Reservoir. On August 18th 2011 the west fork of Carter creek was sampled for Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminate*) by the DWR and samples were sent to both the Utah Fisheries Experiment

Station and to Pices Molecular Lab for microscopy and PCR identification. Results from these samples came back **POSITIVE** for didymo in this drainage. Samples from this area were collected at UTM's 12T 0600346, 4524362 and further downstream at 12T 0600500, 4523809.

- Also present in both Browne Lake and Sheep Creek Lake was a form of pondweed identified as Claspingleaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton richardsonii*) which is native to Maine. Claspingleaf pondweed is much more prevalent in Sheep Creek Lake, but does not appear to be causing significant problems in the lake as of yet.
- Wyoming Game & Fish AIS summary for Flaming Gorge
 - 5,481 Watercraft inspections were conducted in 81 days (Thursdays-Sundays and Holidays)
 - 5 boat decontaminations were conducted because boats had been in infested waters.
 - Total man hours spent on AIS about (N= 3,959) (1.4 Contacts per hour)
 - WY Flaming Gorge “last waters” boated
 - Flaming Gorge (N= 91% or 4988)
 - Willard Bay (N=0.9% or 49)
 - Lake Powell (N=0.8% or 43)
 - Strawberry (N=0.6% or 33)
 - In general boaters indicated they had come from 100 different waters in 21 states
 - WY Flaming Gorge “next waters” boated
 - Unknown (N=35% or 1918)
 - Flaming Gorge (N=98% after the unknown or 3844)
 - Lake Powell (N=0.3% or 11)
 - Jordanella (N=0.2% or 8)
 - In general boaters indicated they will visit 30 different waters in 10 different states after visiting FG.

Starvation Reservoir State Park

- Budget to cover Starvation: UDWR Funds \$9,496; CUWCD \$14,766. Total current expense for Starvation \$10,537. Total Funding for Starvation **\$34,799**
- FTE for Starvation 0.85
 - 2 FT and 1 PT technicians were hired to cover Starvation State park in 2011. These technicians cover the lake for a total of 10.22 months (1 tech for 4 months 2 techs for 3.11 months)
 - 1 decontamination unit was stationed at Starvation for 6 months.
- No media releases were directly connected to Starvation in 2011
- **3097** boaters were contacted pre-launch at Starvation and a total of 132 boater surveys were collected in 2011.
 - Of the 3097 boats launching at Starvation 5 high risk inspections were conducted by AIS technicians resulting in 2 boat decontaminations.

- No other equipment was decontaminated during the summer that I know of.
- Of the 132 boaters interviewed that launched at Starvation, **61** boaters said they had previously launched at Starvation. This is 37% of all boaters interviewed.
- Starvation Top 6 “last waters” boated for boaters coming to Starvation
 - Starvation (n=61)
 - Flaming Gorge (n=12)
 - Willard Bay (n=8)
 - 1st time out this season (n=6)
 - Lake Powell (n=5)
 - Utah Lake (n=5)
 - Strawberry (n=5)
- No encrusted boats were found at Starvation in 2011
- Veliger sampling was done at Starvation on July 19th 2011. The sample was examined under the microscope at the Bureau of Reclamation lab in Denver. The results were negative.
- AIS techs along with law enforcement handed out several hundred warning cards for non compliance at Starvation which were then entered into the FATPOT system by technicians at the Salt Lake City office.

Red Fleet Reservoir State Park & Steinaker Reservoir State Park Complex

- Overall budget for Red Fleet & Steinaker Complex: UDWR Tech II FT time \$17,853, UDWR funding \$11,870, CUWCD \$14,766 and Uintah Water Conservancy District \$8,617. Total current expense for Red Fleet/Steinaker \$15,311 Total funding for Red Fleet and Steinaker **\$53,651**.
- Total FTE for Red Fleet/Steinaker 1.74
 - Red Fleet was covered by regional personnel 7 days per week approximately 12-14 hours a day by 5 rotating technicians and the Regional AIS Biologist. Tech II lived at Red Fleet and worked between Red Fleet, Steinaker, Pelican and Starvation. This system covered 8 months of the year (March-October)
 - A UDWR technician would work between Steinaker and Red Fleet during weekdays.
 - A UDWR technician was assigned to Steinaker on the weekends.
 - 1 permanent decontamination units was stationed at Red Fleet. A second transportable unit was stationed at Red Fleet as a backup unit in case the permanent unit broke down. 62.5 hours were put on the main decontamination unit from Memorial Day to October 21st 2011. Total decontamination unit hours on RF unit as of 11-28-11 equal 162.8
 - 1 transportable decontamination unit was stationed at Steinaker State Park and available for decontaminations when needed.
 - Media releases related to Red Fleet State park included ???

- Other equipment decontaminated at Red Fleet included Utah State parks equipment, all water sports equipment and various other equipment that was used in Red Fleet.
 - At Red Fleet, **1,633** boater contacts were made. **1278 boats were professionally decontaminated and another 355 boats were instructed to Clean Drain and Dry or were returning to Red Fleet on their next boating trip.**
 - At Red Fleet 279 boater interviews were collected
 - **At Steinaker, 2,918 boater contacts were made resulting in 8 high risk boat inspections being conducted and 2 professional decontaminations.**
 - At Steinaker 333 boaters were interviewed
 - Local use of the Red Fleet/ Steinaker complex make up the majority of contacts with 205/333 (61%) using only Red Fleet or Steinaker when boating/fishing.
- Red Fleet Top 8 “last waters” boated for boaters coming to Red Fleet
 - Red Fleet (n=113)
 - Steinaker (n=70)
 - None/1st time out (n=21)
 - Flaming Gorge (n=19)
 - Pelican (n=9)
 - Starvation (n=9)
 - Lake Powell (n=7)
 - Elk Head Reservoir CO (n=5)
- Steinaker Top 6 “last waters” boated for boaters coming to Steinaker
 - Steinaker (n=180)
 - Flaming Gorge (n=44)
 - 1st time out (n=28)
 - Red Fleet (n=25)
 - Pelican (n=16)
 - Starvation (n=6)
- No incrustated boats were identified at Red Fleet or Steinaker
- Red Fleet was sampled for veligers once a month from May until September. All veliger samples were negative for Red Fleet in 2011. A State Parks boat that was moored in the lake all summer was pulled out and inspected; nothing was found. All docks were inspected in the fall; nothing was found.
- Steinaker was sampled in July 26th of 2011; results were found to be negative as well.
- Friday August 12th 2011, an AIS related Highway checkpoint was conducted by NER Law Enforcement Officers and the AIS biologist. The checkpoint was held on HWY 40 just outside the Colorado border at

Musketshot Springs turn off. A total of 11 boats were stopped, 1 high risk inspection was done a boat from the Denver area. Zero boats needed decontaminated

- A Law Enforcement effort at both lakes occurred on a regular basis.

Pelican Lake

- Overall Budget for Pelican Lake: UDWR funds \$9,496, BLM funds \$8,261. Total current expense for Pelican Lake \$7,330 Total funds for Pelican Lake **\$25,042**
 - FTE for Pelican Lake .59
 - 1 UDWR technician covered Pelican for 4 months and 1 DWR tech was hired on BLM funds to cover Pelican for 3.11 months.
 - 1 decontamination unit was available for Pelican during this time
 - No media releases were directly related to Pelican Lake in our region.
 - 213 boater surveys were collected in 2011 and a total of **690** contacts were made.
 - Pelican top 5 “last waters” boated for boaters coming to Pelican
 - Pelican (n=60)
 - Steinaker (n=20)
 - Flaming Gorge (n=14)
 - Starvation (n=11)
 - Lake Powell (n=11)
 - Utah Lake (n=11)
 - 1st time out (n=11)
 - Big Sandwash (n=9)
 - No encrusted boats were found at Pelican Lake
 - 19 high risk inspections were conducted resulting in 1 decontamination of a Nevada based boat.
 - In 2011 the Utah Division of Wildlife collected 4 veliger samples from Pelican Lake. One sample was taken each month from May until September. All samples were sent to the BOR lab in Denver Colorado. All of the samples came back negative for microscopy. Visual searches of the lake also came back negative.
 - Law Enforcement made routine stops at Pelican giving written and verbal warnings.
- **Important Data for this field season.**
 - Total number of contacts for the Northeastern Region of Utah = **16,317** down 1,294 (**7.4%**) overall contacts from 2010.
 - Total number of boats decontaminated, including Red Fleet = **1,289**
 - Total number of contacts made by Law Enforcement for the NER **3,368**
 - Approximate number of written warnings issued by NER Law Enforcement for AIS issues was **6**
 - Total Law Enforcement time spent of AIS 1431 hours
 - Total number of boater survey collected =1,516
 - Total AIS Program Man Hours Worked Region Wide (N=8,992)

- Contacts per hour (N=.55)
- AIS Biologist, AIS Tech II's and AIS Tech I's all contributed non-compliant contact data into the FATPOT system
- AIS biologist received 0 calls from boaters about the warnings that they received from either a Conservation Officer or a Wildlife Tech.
- AIS biologist received 13 calls from boaters who had purchased a new/used boat or had been in AIS infested waters and wanted it inspected and decontaminated prior to launching in northeastern water.
- WIT I training occurred for all 16 DWR Technician I positions during a 2 day training session. WIT I training also occurred for SP&R Seasonal Employees at Starvation State Park and Steinaker State Park.

Other AIS work completed in the Northeastern Region:

- ▶ NZMS presence/absence surveys completed on Jones Creek. A 4 mile stretch from Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery down to the confluence with the Green River. Sampling was conducted on June 20-21st 2011 between Nad 83 UTM's 12 T 0664603, 4493597 and 12 T 0664628, 4492099. A total of 15 different sections were sampled by AIS technicians and AIS Biologist. No NZMS were found on this stretch of creek.
- ▶ Didymo sampling on Rock Creek below Upper Stillwater Dam. Collected on September 15th 2011 at Nad 83 UTM's 12 T 0535746, 4482662 and 12 T 0535929, 4482059. Results for these samples were Positive.